

DEFENDS THE NAVY

Cowles Denies that Construction Is at Fault.

CAPPS TO SUBMIT FIGURES

Will Try to Discount Testimony as to Armor Belt at Water Line Based on Log Records—Davis Declares that Direct Holst Is Superior to the New "Interrupted" One.

American methods of naval construction were stoutly defended before the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs yesterday by Rear Admiral W. S. Cowles, brother-in-law of President Roosevelt, and Lieut. Commander Cleveland Davis. Cowles was formerly chief of the Bureau of Equipment.

Rear Admiral Cowles is also a member of the Bureau of Construction. He gave a graphic description to the members of the committee of the disaster on the battle ship Missouri, which occurred while the vessel, under his command, was at target practice off Jacksonville, Fla. The responsibility for the accident had never been fixed absolutely, but he said it was now generally believed that the cause was a "flare back." The gas-expelling device which was adopted by the navy shortly after the accident on the Missouri, and as a result of it, had lessened, if it had not actually removed, the possibility of a "flare back."

The admiral defended rapidly of firing as necessary, but admitted that danger increased proportionately, incident to the risk that is always incurred in handling powder.

Shutters Give Ample Protection.

"I believe the late precautions, such as the shutter, have given ample protection in the use of direct ammunition holists," said the admiral.

Chairman Hale made another reference to what he has often characterized heretofore as "the mania for rapid firing."

"I do not believe that the interrupted holst is an improvement over present conditions," said Admiral Cowles. "The elementary danger is just as great." He denied that the board of construction, of which he is a member, discouraged or repelled suggestions from designers. He believed suggestions for improvement in the navy were always welcomed.

He concurred with the view of Rear Admiral Cowles and Capps as to the location of the armor belt. He called the attention of the committee to the fact that if the belt were widened a foot, as had been suggested, it would be necessary to sacrifice the weight amounting to four twelve-inch guns.

Capps Will Give Figures.

Rear Admiral Capps made the interesting disclosure to the committee that he had prepared and was ready to submit official reports from the Norfolk Navy Yard as to the exact depth of every vessel in the Atlantic fleet at the time it left Hampton Roads for the Pacific. This had been accurately taken, and when considered along with the reduction in stores, ammunition and coal, would show a correct computation from day to day as to the exact position of the vessel in the water.

"When this statement is submitted to the committee later, as it will be, it will prove the unreliability of the official log," said Admiral Capps, who added the suggestion that Commander Sims and Lieut. Commander Hill had gotten their information from the log and other unreliable sources.

Prefers the Direct Holst.

Lieut. Commander Cleveland Davis, the second witness of the day, defended the direct holst and announced that if he were commanding a ship in action he would remove the shutters to allow free action and communication. He defended the present methods of turret construction so ably that Chairman Hale admitted that he had become very much confused in his own mind as to which device was the better. Mr. Tillman suggested that Lieut. Commander Davis had not stated that the direct ammunition holst was the better, "promptly replied that officer."

ARMY PAY IS DISCUSSED.

Senate Begins Consideration of Bill Proposing Increase.

The army pay bill was before the Senate yesterday afternoon. Several Democratic Senators expressed disapproval of the section of the bill which conferred upon the President the power to increase the pay of the enlisted men. Senator Teller, of Colorado, declared that the bill conferred too much power on the Executive.

"If this republic is in danger from any one thing more than another, it is the disposition to sit idly by and allow one department of this government to exercise duties that belong to another department," said he.

Senator Warren reminded the Colorado Senator that the Secretary of the Navy had fixed the increase of pay for the enlisted men of the navy. Senator Lodge made the suggestion that that was the reason the enlisted men of the navy had fared better than those in the army.

Sensor Frazier, of Tennessee, Democrat, a member of the Committee on Military Affairs, said he regarded the proposed increase of 40 per cent for enlisted men as probably too high. He was opposed to any increase for the major generals.

After a sharp debate, in which Senators Warren, Lodge, and Hale defended the bill, the subject went over until today.

AFTER RAILROAD P. C. SERVICE

Representative Says His Committee Will Go Deep Into Examination.

Promise was made yesterday by Chairman Wanger, of the House Committee on Expenditures in the Post-office Department, of a searching investigation into charges that the Postmaster General is permitting the railroads of the country to take from the Treasury annually millions to which they are not entitled. Personally, Postmaster General Meyer is not accused of wrongdoing.

The investigation will be based upon the statement made by Representative Lloyd, that since 1889 the railroads have obtained \$20,000,000 that did not belong to them, and that although the abuse has been remedied in one section of the country, it is permitted to continue in the other three-fourths.

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FRIEND AND FOES OF THE ALDRICH BILL.

SENATOR McCUMBER,
Of North Dakota.SENATOR SMITH,
Of Michigan.SENATOR HOPKINS,
Of Illinois.

HEYBURN BILL'S FOE

Idaho Senator Opposes the Aldrich Measure.

OBJECTS TO RAILROAD BONDS

Declares Ending Stock Gambling Would Bring End of Panics More Quickly Than Would Emergency Currency—Hopkins Defends Bill and Opposes Pending Amendments.

Another Republican Senator, Mr. Heyburn, of Idaho, yesterday made a long and exhaustive address in the Senate in opposition to the Aldrich currency bill.

Sensor Heyburn's main contention was against the use of railroad bonds as a basis for the proposed emergency currency. But he also opposed the issuance of emergency currency, declaring that the financial stability of the country could be better preserved by doing away with stock gambling and the participation of the banks in that practice through the lending of the country's reserves to gamblers.

He made a strong plea for the retention of adequate reserves in the so-called country banks, and said that the central reserve city banks in the recent panic not only held no reserve against the country reserves which had been deposited with them, but tied up the entire available money of the country in speculative ventures. Regarding the pending bill, he said:

"Let us dismiss this financial legislation from our minds, and give notice to the financial barons of the country that they must not indulge in such financial tantrums."

No Lack of Currency.

The country, he said, had not been suffering from want of money, but from lack of activity on the part of its money, due to the speculative craze, which had tied up the money. The currency of the country, he declared, had increased to the extent of \$100,000,000, while the bank was upon the country. He would never vote for a measure which proposed to base money upon a security of "such passing value" as a railroad bond. Analyzing the safeguards which the bill placed about the government's interests in the new proposed currency, he asked who was to make the bonds deposited as a basis for the new money good if a call for additional protection were issued by the Secretary of the Treasury, and the bank which had deposited the bonds refused to comply. It was suggested that the government would close the bank, and Mr. Heyburn said that in that case the bill was a measure to promote bankruptcy.

Toward the close of his speech Mr. Heyburn had an extended legal argument with Senators Lodge and Teller over the question whether the government would have a prior lien upon the deposits of a bank which had taken out some of the emergency currency and failed to maintain the required amount of security to keep it in circulation.

Hopkins Speaks for Bill.

Sensor Hopkins, of Illinois, defended the Aldrich bill in a speech earlier in the day, and attacked many of the proposed amendments. The proposal to guarantee the money of depositors he condemned as "a step in the direction of socialism." "The depositor enters into a voluntary relation with the bank," said he. "He elects his collateral and agrees voluntarily to a rate of interest. The transaction is a purely commercial one. To say that a depositor may go about depositing in any bank because he knows that it is safe is socialism. The people would lose their interest in the integrity of bank officers and bankers with all these safeguards thrown around their deposits."

In conclusion, Mr. Hopkins predicted that if the Aldrich bill was passed, adding \$500,000,000 to the circulation, it would cause such panics as that of last fall impossible.

WAIT FOR SENATOR LONG.

Outlook for Union Station Tracks Not a Bright One.

The absence of Senator Long, of Kansas, from Washington has deferred the meeting of the House and Senate conferences on the Union Station track bill, but it is understood that so soon as the Kansas Senator is able to return to the city the conferences will begin.

Sensor Gallinger, chairman of the Senate District Committee and head of the Senate conferees, has been ready to take up the matter with the House conferees, but the unavoidable absence from Washington of Senator Martin and Senator Long, the other Senate conferees, has made this impossible. Mr. Martin returned to the city on Tuesday, but it is not known when Mr. Long will return.

The conferees will not be brief, and it is not impossible that an agreement may not be reached. Representative Sims, of Tennessee, one of the House conferees, is determined to insist upon the amendments made in the bill by the lower body, providing for universal transfers and supervision of the railway lines by the District Commissioners. To these changes the Senate conferees at present have no intention of acceding.

The universal transfers amendment in practically the same form in which it is incorporated in the House bill was offered in the Senate, and was almost unanimously rejected.

PRESS GALLERY—No. 33.



RICHARD LEE FEARN.

Mr. Fearn is chief of the Washington Bureau of the New York Tribune. He is a native of Alabama, and studied in the University of the South and the University of Alabama. Later he graduated as a mechanical engineer from Stevens Institute of Technology, but abandoned that profession two years after graduation to accept a position on the staff of the Brooklyn Eagle. In 1887 he came to Washington as correspondent for that paper.

In 1893 he was engaged on the Washington staff of the old United Press, three years later going to the London office of that association, where he remained for six months. He joined the staff of the New York Tribune in 1897, and became chief of the bureau in 1902.

During the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, he was secretary of foreign affairs. Mr. Fearn is one of the most graceful writers in Washington, and his articles on military, naval, and international subjects are authoritative, his exclusive articles never failing to attract the notice of the Tribune readers.

For sixteen years or more he has been service at the National Capital, and his acquaintance is large and varied.

He was secretary of the Gridiron Club for two terms, and has ably filled the offices of vice president and president of that organization.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE IS BUSY

Local Measures to Be Considered This Afternoon.

Several Bills May Be Reported to House—Next District Day Monday.

After a week of work on the part of its subcommittees, the House District Committee will meet this morning to discuss several important measures. The bills which will be considered include several proposing street extensions, one affecting child labor in the District, and the bill recently passed by the Senate permitting the Commissioners to accept a branch Carnegie library to be erected at Takoma Park.

The latter bill will be ordered favorably reported to the House, as will some, if not all, of the street extension measures, but over the child labor bill there is likely to be some question, so that it is not probable that it will be reported to the House before the next District Day, which is Monday.

WANT CEMETERY AS PARK.

Senate Committee Favors Pleasure Ground for the Northeast.

Sensor Wetmore, of Rhode Island, yesterday reported to the Senate, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, the bill introduced by Senator Scott, of West Virginia, proposing to provide a public park at the junction of Maryland avenue and Fifteenth and H streets northeast.

The report recommends that the bill be passed after amending it by striking out all after the enacting clause and adding in lieu of the erased matter the provision that the District Commissioners, if they deem it advisable, may acquire by purchase or by condemnation, the tract formerly known as Graceland Cemetery, to be converted into a park.

The tract which it is proposed to acquire contains approximately twenty-five acres of land, and the bill limits the cost to \$150,000. This sum is appropriated by the terms of the bill, half from the District revenues and half from the Federal Treasury.

GAGE LAUDS FOWLER

Former Secretary of Treasury Praises Currency Bill.

ITS PASSAGE IS IMPERATIVE

Says the More He Studies Measure the "More Comprehensive and Complete It Seems to Be"—Is of Opinion that It Removes Weaknesses in Government Finances.

An emphatic endorsement of the credit currency plan proposed in the Fowler bill is contained in a letter received yesterday from Lyman J. Gage, former Secretary of the Treasury, by Representative Fowler, chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Currency.

Mr. Gage declares that danger to the national credit in the event of war demands the passage of the Fowler bill. He says in part: "The more I study the bill reported by the House committee, the more comprehensive and complete it seems to be."

"It at once removes the weakness in our government finances, and brings the banking business into a safe and natural relation toward those interests which it is the primary purpose of the bank to serve and protect. Those interests are production, manufacturing, and exchange."

"I just mentioned the weakness in our government finances. We are so accustomed to the situation that we are unconscious of it. This would come to our attention, however, with painful emphasis were we, under present conditions, to face a war involving perhaps an expenditure by our nation of a thousand millions a year—that is three millions a day—a modest estimate as the thoughtful must admit."

The Nation's Weaknesses.

"In my statement before the House I enumerated these weaknesses:

"First—The present demand obligations outstanding against the Treasury under the name of legal-tender notes, \$246,000,000.

"Second—The government guarantee on \$700,000,000 of bank notes.

"To be sure, the Treasury holds as security for this undertaking, a similar amount of its own bonds, but everybody knows that this artificial contrivance, the bonds so held are overvalued when put to the test in a free market, by 20 to 25 per cent."

"The issue of millions of new bonds to meet the costs of war would strip the mask which now conceals the fact, and expose the weakness at the moment when greatest strength would be required. Thus nature reveals herself on the unwise and imprudent."

WRITES TO RIDGELY.

Author of Protective Measure Seeks Information from Comptroller.

In furtherance of his message to give jurisdiction to the Court in Appeals of the District of Columbia, in determining the constitutionality of any public expenditure, Representative Littlefield, author of the bill, yesterday communicated with Comptroller of the Treasury Ridgely.

The nature of the communication was not made public. Mr. Littlefield stating last night that he desires to wait until he receives an answer before he divulges the contents of his own letter.

The matter which the Comptroller replies it is likely that the House Committee on the Judiciary will take any action on the Littlefield measure, as the answer of the Comptroller, it is understood, will have much weight in determining the committee's attitude.

The bill is a stringent one, and if passed would throw safeguards about expenditures in every department of the government to the Court, in determining the constitutionality of any public expenditure which might enjoy any office making any expenditure contrary to the Constitution.

LILLEY READY TO PROCEED.

House Member Who First Sent Submarine "Scandal" Is Back.

Owing to the demand among members of the House that an investigation be made of the charges contained in the Lilley resolution, that members of the Committee on Naval Affairs were improperly influenced in connection with legislation affecting the Electric Boat Company, the indications are that such an inquiry will be conducted by the House.

Representative Lilley, of Connecticut, author of the resolution, returned to Washington yesterday, and will appear before the Committee on Rules today. The committee will then formally announce whether the inquiry shall be made.

When informed that a libel suit had been instituted against him, Mr. Lilley said he is prepared "to eat libel suits."

No Suffrage Amendment.

Chairman Jenkins of the House Committee on the Judiciary said yesterday that his committee will report unfavorably the bill proposing to amend the Constitution so as to grant suffrage to women. Mr. Jenkins said that you can't just take a pen and ink and write an amendment to the Constitution as if it were a special message, or words to that effect.

Street Extensions Proposed.

A bill was introduced yesterday by Representative Bennett, of New York, proposing to extend P street northeast, from Thirty-sixth street to Foxhall road, and Volta street, and Q street and Dent street, from Thirty-fifth street to Foxhall road. The width prescribed is sixty feet.

GUSTS STIR SENATE

Tillman Ruffled When Resolution Strikes Snag.

TILT WITH HALE AND ALDRICH

Break in Continuity of His Daily Resolutions Brings Protest from South Carolinian, Who Clashes with Senators on Republican Side. Gets Reply to Hopkins Read.

Having got a daily resolution asking for information from some department of the government through the Senate recently, Senator Tillman has acquired the reputation of being a daily resolution man, and in endeavoring to indulge his taste in this particular yesterday he had a sharp little exchange of pleasantries with Senators Aldrich, Hale, and Depew.

When the resolution, asking about the loans made by New York banks on stocks, introduced by the South Carolina Senator, came up yesterday, having gone over from the previous day at the request of Mr. Aldrich, the latter declared that some of its features were objectionable, and said he thought that it had better go to the Committee on Finance, of which he is chairman, intimating that the committee would endeavor to revise it to suit both Senator Tillman and himself.

Tillman's ire is roused.

Mr. Tillman immediately demanded to know what features of the resolution were objectionable, and Mr. Aldrich remarked that the most objectionable was the provision which called for the names of all persons to whom loans on stock had been made. This, he thought, would be the worst thing the Senate could do.

Mr. Tillman was willing to modify it by leaving out the names referring to the borrowers as No. 1, No. 2, &c. All he wanted was to find out about the stock gambling.

Mr. Hale, of Maine, objected to the consideration of the resolution, which aroused Mr. Tillman's ire. The Senator from Maine could not "crowd him off the floor," he declared. The resolution had gone over Tuesday on objection. It was properly before the Senate, and he (Tillman) could discuss it until 2 o'clock if he desired.

Mr. Hale disclaimed any intention of attempting to take Mr. Tillman from the floor. He thought, however, that the resolution should be considered by the Finance Committee and the objectionable features eliminated.

Wants to Know About Gambling.

Mr. Tillman thereupon announced that he did not care a snap about the names of the borrowers from the banks. "I have no intention," he said, "of making any inquisitorial inquiry into the private morals of New York; what I want is the record of stock gambling there, in which the banks assist by lending money on flimsy security."

Mr. Depew, of New York, did not see why the inquiry should be directed exclusively at New York. Whatever was charged against that city would apply also to other parts of the country.

"That might be true, but in a less degree," Mr. Tillman replied, quite snappishly. "But the bucket shops have been run out of most of the States, and would be shut up entirely if the head center of all such devilry—the New York Stock Exchange—would confine its business to legitimate transactions."

Depew Defends Gotham.

Mr. Depew suggested that if the New York Stock Exchange were closed, up, the industries in South Carolina and all other sections of the country would suffer, for New York was the only place where they could get the money to run them. The majority of the loans made by the banks of New York, he declared, were not made on stock transactions, but in the course of legitimate business. He thought, therefore, that calling for the names of the borrowers would force a disclosure of secrets that would cause great injury.

Mr. Tillman vehemently declared that Mr. Depew's admission was a confession that the New York banks were doing just what (Tillman) claimed. But Mr. Depew thought any such conclusion was based entirely on the assumption that Senators were better bankers than the New York bank officers.

Depew Would Stop Gambling.

Sensor Depew declared that he was perfectly willing to join Senator Tillman in endeavoring to stop gambling in stocks in New York, or anywhere else, if it could be done.

After Mr. Tillman had taken a bit of a rap at Mr. Aldrich's alleged control of the Senate, declaring that he knew the resolution must go to the committee if Senator Aldrich insisted upon it, Mr. Aldrich repeated his demand, and the resolution was referred to the Finance Committee.

Later, following Senator Hopkins' speech in defense of the Aldrich bill, Senator Tillman sent to the desk to be read an article in a banking magazine in which a well-known Chicago banker attacked the bill. Senator Tillman, at the hour for the unfinished business to be laid before the Senate, Mr. Aldrich asked that the reading be stopped and that the article be inserted in the Record instead.

Not "Boss" of Democrats.

This aroused Senator Tillman again. "The Senator from Rhode Island may control his side of the chamber," he cried, "but thank God, he doesn't run us over here, at least not yet."

When the unfinished business had been laid before the Senate Mr. Tillman secured enough time from Senator Heyburn, who had the floor, to have the reading of the article finished and to make a short speech upon it.

In doing so, he made a remark that seemed to indicate an intention to criticize Senator Hopkins, who had left the chamber. Senator Aldrich was on his feet in a second, and the Senator from Illinois is present to hear it," he said.

Mr. Tillman said he had no personal criticism to make, but simply wished to show that Mr. Hopkins had changed his views somewhat. Later, Senator Hopkins came in and demanded that if any personal remarks had been made concerning him he should like to have them read. Mr. Hopkins declared in effect, that he had been misinformed as to the purpose of the Senator's statements.

Hopkins Pours Oil on Waters.

"If the Senator desires," said Mr. Tillman, somewhat belatedly, "he can consult the stenographic record."

"Not at all," said Mr. Hopkins; "the Senator's statement is sufficient, and I accept his criticism in the spirit in which it was made."

Then everybody cooled off and listened to Senator Heyburn's speech.

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YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Sensor Hopkins, of Illinois, addressed the Senate in support of the Aldrich currency bill. He opposed the amendments creating a guaranty fund for the reimbursement of depositors in national banks.

HOUSE.

The House passed a resolution expressing sympathy for the school disaster at Cleveland, Ohio. The House appointed conferees on the Indian appropriation bill, to some portions of which the Senate has objected.

A bill was passed authorizing the selection of a site for a monument to Commodore John D. Sloat at Monterey, Cal.

The Senate bill granting an extension of time for the construction of the first twenty-mile section of the line of the Alaska-Pacific Railway and Terminal Company was passed.

A bill amending the patent laws, so that the legal representative of an applicant who has become insane may act for such applicant, was passed.

The House proceeded to the further consideration of the post-office appropriation bill in Committee of the Whole.

At 4:30 the committee arose, and the House adjourned until today at noon.

LILLEY IS SUED FOR SLANDER

Frank B. Lord, Accused Newspaper Correspondent, Wants \$40,000.

Libel Suit Filed in District Supreme Court—Petitioner Alleges Congressman's Statement False.

Echo of charges preferred against two newspaper correspondents, about ten days ago, by Representative Lilley, of Connecticut, was heard yesterday in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, when Frank B. Lord, named by Mr. Lilley, instituted suit to recover \$40,000 damages from the Congressman for slander and libel.

The suit was filed by Attorney Charles A. Kelgwin.

In his declaration Lord sets forth that he was a newspaper reporter and correspondent in good standing in the press galleries of the Capitol, and employed to report the proceedings in the House of Representatives.

On February 22, he alleges, Representative Lilley, in the presence of several persons, accused him of being in the employ of the Electric Boat Company, of New Jersey.

This, the declaration charges, had the effect of injuring Lord in his professional capacity, in that, as a qualification for entry and membership to the press gallery, its members are prohibited from being interested in any way, or advancing the interests of any firm, corporation, &c., having business pending before Congress or the executive departments.

Lord also alleges that, on account of this statement by Representative Lilley and an authorized interview which he gave, in which he denied he had ever given Lord an interview in which he accused Representative Williams, Dr. Armond, Sherman, and Griggs of being "in on the graft," and further accused him in this denial of being in the pay and employment of the boat company, and that he would distort whatever views Lilley might express to him, he, Lord, was subjected to considerable financial loss, and was dismissed by his employers.

It is stated that the other correspondent named by Mr. Lilley will file a similar suit to-day.

HOUSE IN REPERTOIRE.

Members Try Out Several New Speeches with Varying Themes.

General debate in Committee of the Whole took the time of the House yesterday. The post-office appropriation bill being under consideration, unlike Tuesday's debate, however, that of yesterday was wholly foreign to the bill.

Representative Sims, of Tennessee, urged the passage of the Burleson bill, prohibiting the use of the mails, telegraph, or telephone in dealing in cotton futures, and denounced the method of cotton exchanges, especially that of New York.

The currency question was discussed by Representatives Chaney, of Indiana; Bennett, of New York, and Lindbergh, of Minnesota.

Representative Hitchcock, editor of the Omaha World-Herald, demanded the repeal of the duty on wood pulp and lumber. Representative Smith, of Missouri, advocated the passage of his bill forbidding the transmission through the mails of information fraudulently obtained, and Representative Culler, of Missouri, the newly discovered humorist from Wisconsin, protested against the "hold-up" of the government by the owners of the stamp cancelling machines used in post-offices.

He asked the government to buy, not rent, them. General debate will close at 3 o'clock to-day.

The Indian appropriation bill was sent to conference, and bills were passed authorizing the legal representatives of an inventor to make application for a patent in behalf of his ward; directing the erection of a statue at Monterey, Cal., to Commander John D. Sloat, who captured that port, and extending the time for the completion of the Alaska-Pacific Railroad.

A session of the House was ordered for April 15, for the delivery of eulogies upon the late George W. Smith, of Illinois.

Canada Not Yet Located.

Attempts by the Washington police to locate Van D. Canada, postmaster and storekeeper at Glen Echo, Md., who disappeared from his home Sunday morning, have been futile. Mr. Canada was seen on the Chain Bridge shortly before his disappearance, and it was thought he had committed suicide by jumping in the river. This theory was dispelled, however, when it was learned the man was seen on the road to Washington about two hours later.

SHAW QUITS TRUST BANK.

Former Secretary of Treasury Resigns Place as President.

New York, March 4.—Ex-Secretary of the Treasury Shaw has severed all connections with the Carnegie Trust Co. He resigned from the presidency recently and at the monthly meeting of the directors to-day his resignation from both the presidency and the directorate was formally accepted.